

## Mission a Failure—Son Still in Red Prison

# A Mother's Sad Return From China



Associated Press

**RETURN**—Mrs. Ruth Redmond, right, welcomed at Idlewild yesterday by her daughter, Mrs. Bernard Boyle.

By John Molleson  
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

Mrs. Ruth Redmond came home yesterday—alone.

She had hoped she might return with her son, Hugh, 43, who has been a prisoner of the Chinese Communists for 11 years.

But her pleas to Chinese officials that her son be released as a "birthday present" were not answered. Mrs. Redmond's visa expired before her son's birthday, on Oct. 30, and she had to leave Shanghai without celebrating it with him.

### Saw Son 4 Times

Mrs. Redmond, who is manager of the cafeteria at Benjamin Franklin Junior High School, in Yonkers, N. Y., said she would continue her efforts to gain her son's freedom. "The Committee for the Release of Hugh Redmond is going to work with me," she said, "as is the American Red Cross." The committee, composed of friends in Yonkers, helped pay her expenses for the trip.

During her one-week visit in Shanghai, Mrs. Redmond saw Hugh four times in the

old Ward Road Prison, once operated by the British. "He just didn't look like my son," she said yesterday on her arrival at Idlewild Airport.

Her voice trembled as she continued: "He was very, very changed. When I first saw him I was really shocked. There was a terrific change in his face and eyes. There was a continuous twitching of his right eye. I knew there is something radically wrong with him.

"I wasn't allowed to say all the things I wanted to say to him. They gave me 11 rules to follow, and I was told

that if I broke any of them the interviews could be ended. All I was allowed to talk about was home and family. I could tell him nothing and he couldn't tell me anything either. I was left with nothing to talk about.

### His Memory Good

"It was cold and he had two or three sweaters on, so I couldn't tell if his weight was down. However, his memory seemed very good."

Mrs. Redmond, 64, made her only other visit to her son five years ago. A group of about 20 friends from Yonkers met her as she arrived at Idle-

wild aboard a British Overseas Airways Corp. plane. Among them were John E. Flynn, Mayor of Yonkers, and Sol Friedman, chairman of the Committee for the Release of Hugh Redmond.

"We are going to redouble our efforts and continue to appeal to Chinese officials for his release. We also plan to make an appeal to the UN to free this man," Mr. Friedman said.

Mr. Redmond, an employee of a Shanghai export-import firm, was arrested on espionage charges in 1951 and sentenced three years later to life in prison.